

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-20

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FM AMCONSUL CURACAO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1762

C O N F I D E N T I A L CURACAO 0170

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, XM

SUBJECT: CONGEN COMMENTS ON PRE-IG OF NETHERLANDS ANTILLES

I CASP

REF: STATE 058184, CURACAO A-2

1. CONGEN CONCURS WITH DELETION OF ISSUE NO. 2 AND THAT THE USG WILL BE OBLIGED TO HAVE DIFFERENT POLICIES TOWARD THE NA IF SURINAM OBTAINS INDEPENDENCE PRIOR TO THE NA.

2. REF. QTE CONTROL ON THE MOVEMENT OF PEOPLE AND GOODS TO AND FROM THE US UNQTE: IF THE USG SINCERELY DESIRES A HEALTHY NON-CORRUPTED GNA WHICH COULD BETTER WITHSTAND COMMUNIST OR OTHER FOREIGN INFLUENCE, CONGEN IS OF THE OPINION THAT IT IS OF MAJOR IMPORTANCE TO PLACE ALL POSSIBLE PRESSURE TO EVICT ORGANIZED US GAMBLERS AND GAMBLING FROM NA. FOR REASONS STATED IN CONGEN'S OVERVIEW AND PAGES 9 AND 10 OF CASP, CONGEN CONTINUES OF FIRM OPINION THAT QTE CONTROL OF UNDESIRABLE INFLUENCES IN CASINO OPERATIONS UNQTE SHOULD INDEED BE OF THE HIGHEST LEVEL OF US CONCERN. THE NA CAN ILL AFFORD THIS EXPORT FROM THE US. US IRS REPRESENTATIVES WHO RECENTLY MONITORED THE CASINOS IN THE NA STATED THEY WERE OF THE OPINION THAT BETWEEN 15 AND 20 MILLION US DOLLARS WERE GOING UNTAXED BY EITHER THE GNA OR THE USG EACH YEAR. IT IS ALSO SUSPECTED THAT SOME CASINO

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OPERATORS MAY BE DEALING IN DANGEROUS DRUGS. UNLESS THE

CASP CAN FOCUS ITS PRIORITIES ON SUCH AN IMPORTANT PROBLEM THEN IT APPEARS THE ENTIRE CASP EXERCISE IS EMASCULATED AND FUTILE.

THE CONNOTATION OF QTE HIGH PRIORITY UNQTE AS INTERPRETED BY THE CONGEN IN THIS PROBLEM WOULD MEAN THAT AS A RESULT OF SUCH CLASSIFICATION ALL POSSIBLE ACTION BY CONCERNED U.S. AGENCIES WOULD BE BROUGHT TO BEAR TO FORCE THE U.S. GAMBLERS OUT OF THE NA. THE CONGEN HAS HAD CONSIDERABLE SUCCESS IN OBTAINING THE INTEREST AND ACTION OF THE USIRS, DEA, TREASURY AND OTHER AGENCIES IN THIS PROBLEM. AS A RESULT OF INFORMATION FURNISHED BY THESE AGENCIES THE CONGEN HAS BEEN ABLE TO AWAKEN SOME YOUNG NA POLITICAL FIGURES TO ITS SERIOUSNESS. IF IG RULES THIS MATTER A QTE LOW PRIORITY UNQTE THEN THE CONGEN IS APPREHENSIVE THAT IT WOULD BE PLACED ON A BACK BURNER AND LITTLE ATTENTION GIVEN.

IF IG INSISTS ON GIVING THE U.S. GAMBLING PROBLEM A LOW PRIORITY THE CONGEN WOULD APPRECIATE BEING INFORMED OF ITS REASONS.

3. REF. QTE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT UNQTE: CONGEN CONCURS WITH CHANGE FROM MEDIUM TO LOW.

4. REF. QTE FAIR TREATMENT AND SAFETY OF US CITIZENS UNQTE: WITH RESPECT TO THE REPUTATIONS OF THOSE US CITIZENS AND THEIR PROJECTS WHO ARE MOST LIKELY TO BE AFFECTED IN THE EVENT OF DRAMATIC SOCIAL UPHEAVAL, CGNGEN CONCURS WITH CHANGE FROM MEDIUM TO NONE. IT WOULD APPEAR HIGHLY UNLIKELY THAT WITHIN THE CASP TIME FRAME ANY LEGITIMATE US BUSINESS INTEREST WOULD BE NATIONALIZED.

5. REF. QTE ADVANCEMENT OF OTHER US INTERESTS UNQTE: CONGEN CONCURS WITH CHANGE FROM MEDIUM TO NONE.

6. REF. QTE FAVORABLE DISPOSITION TOWARD US UNQTE: CONGEN CONCURS WITH CHANGE FROM LOW TO NONE.

7. REF. QTE OPEN CHANNELS OF COMMUNICATION UNQTE: CONGEN CONCURS WITH CHANGE FROM LOW TO NONE.

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8. REF. PARAGRAPH FOUR OF REFTTEL, ORIGINAL INFORMATION COMES FROM PRESIDENT OF LAGO, AND IS SUBSTANTIATED BY SHELL, CURACAO, THAT US DERIVES 20 PERCENT OF HEATING OIL FROM NA REFINERIES. IN ADDITION DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE STATISTICS (PUBLICATION FT 246-71) ON US IMPORTS FOR 1971 (LATEST AVAILABLE HERE) SHOW FUEL OIL IMPORTS OF DOLS 1.22 BILLION OF WHICH DOLS 310 MILLION IS FROM NE, WHICH IS ABOVE 20 PERCENT.

9. REF. PARAGRAPH FIVE OF REFTTEL, IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT
PAGE 23 PARAGRAPH ENTITLED QTE PROJECTED CONDITIONS IN FY 76 UNQTE
OF QTE US NATIONAL DEFENSE UNQTE BE ALTERED TO READ: QTE
ALTHOUGH THE DUTCH REALM COMMISSION MAY MAKE SOME RECOMMENDATIONS
IN ITS REPORT (DATE OF COMPLETION OF THIS REPORT IS
STILL UNKNOWN) FOR CHANGES IN THE DISPOSITION OF
DUTCH FORCES IN THE NA, IT IS LIKELY THAT THE LEVEL
OF DUTCH FORCES WILL REMAIN THE SAME UNQTE.

10. REF. PARAGRAPH SIX OF REFTTEL, CONGEN NOTES THAT
US NAVY SHIP VISITS HAVE DECREASED CONSIDERABLY THIS YEAR
DUE TO ENERGY CRISIS. AS LONG AS NO INCREASE IN
FREQUENCY OF SHIP VISITS IS ANTICIPATED, CONGEN AGREES THAT NO
NAVAL OFFICER BE ASSIGNED TO THE POST FOR THIS REASON AT
THIS TIME.
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